

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



KAKO MIURA *Violin*

AMFS student and violinist Kako Miura's story with music began even before she was born. In 1986 her mother interviewed fourteen-year-old Midori for a Japanese news network after her iconic performance of Bernstein's Serenade with the New York Philharmonic, and "she was so inspired by her passion for the music and the violin and wanted me to have that same kind of passion in my life, so she gave me a violin when I turned four and the rest is history," says Miura.

Last week's Aspen Festival Orchestra concert was an especially memorable day for Miura who played in the orchestra as Midori once again performed Bernstein's Serenade. "It all came full circle," says Miura excitedly, "she is an embodiment of artistry and hard work and I admire her for all of that."

Miura was born in Japan and moved around the world with her single mother who was pursuing a career in journalism. At the age of fifteen, she began studying at Juilliard Pre-College and went on to receive her bachelor's from Juilliard. Now she is completing her masters at the Colburn School.

After attending the Aspen Music Festival and School from 2012 to 2015, Miura returned this summer to study with artist-faculty member Robert Lipsett as a recipient of a Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation Scholarship.

"Being in Mr. Lipsett's studio is life changing. He is all about learning to play the violin well, and everybody in my studio is a great violinist. My goal this summer is to try to live up to that standard," states Miura.

"I've come to recognize the dedication required to achieve greatness since being with Mr. Lipsett. His philosophy is, if you put in the work, you'll succeed. I've come to respect putting in the work," says Miura, "because you wish that it wasn't as important as the artistic aspect, but it really goes hand in hand!"

It was during one of her first summers at the AMFS that Miura first felt a true connection and passion for her instrument. "I went to a string quartet concert and they played Beethoven Op. 132, which is still one of my favorite pieces. I was in my teens, and this sounds kind of cheesy, but I wasn't sure about my purpose in life," recounts Miura.

"I was looking for meaning in my life, meaning to my existence. I went to this recital and I couldn't stop crying. It was emotional, but it made me feel so alive! Feeling those strong emotions is at the core of the human experience. It cleared the fog in a lot of ways. I thought that if I could make other people feel like that with my music, then that was what I wanted to do," Miura continues.

The violin became not just a well-crafted piece of wood and strings, but a piece of Miura's being. "I adore the breadth of repertoire and options for the violin," says Miura. "If there's a piece that I really like, chances are that there's a violin part, so I can be a part of creating the music at all times."

Miura chose to continue her studies in Aspen for the opportunity to play a wide range of orchestral, chamber, and solo repertoire over the summer with accessibility to world-class guest artists and artist-faculty. The intimate mountain town setting offers the "feeling of being a part of something greater than yourself that only nature and music can provide," says Miura.

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